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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Yugoslavia

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SUBJECT Resistance Groups in Yugoslavia

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SUPPLEMENT

ORIGIN

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1. The resistance groups in Croatia are composed generally of Domobranâ and Ustashi who refused to surrender to Tito after the war, as well as deserters from Tito's Army and persons who have escaped to the mountains because of threats from the OZNA.

There are no political differences between the groups. Their Croat nationalism is the common bond for unifying them, and though they have adopted the name "Krizari" (Crusaders), their movement is based on an anti-Russian feeling rather than on any religious ideal.

The Krizari operate in small groups of 25 to 50 men; they have great mobility, but lack officers trained in military operations. Their armament and equipment is very meager. Their poor operational tactics, coupled with the lack of armament, reduce their effectiveness to more of an annoyance than a threat to the Yugoslav Government. The Government had sent out troops against the Krizari in the past, but since resistance forces could disperse without great losses in the mountains, such operations have been cancelled.

It is reported that the Krizari have the sympathy of the inhabitants of most villages who supply them with food, clothing and some items of equipment. Relations with the local police (Milicija) are often favorable. The morale of the Krizari is high because they are not hampered by Tito's forces, they have adequate food, generally live near their homes, and are convinced that the present situation cannot last much longer in Yugoslavia.

2. Some of their groups are as follows:

In the Ivancica mountain region, 600 to 800 men are commanded by Ustashi Colonel Rafael Boban and Domobran Major Nalis.

In the Kalnik mountain region there are 200 or 300 men under the same command.

In the Bilo Gora mountain region there are about 300 men commanded by Ustashi Major Nemeć.

In the Moslavina region there are 300 to 400 men. The commanding officer is unknown.

In the mountains of Slovenia, east of Papuk and Krndija, there are several groups of resistance forces. Together they number about 2,500 men under the leadership of the Domobran Major Domovich and Martin Mesarov, a deputy of the Croatian Peasant Party (HSS).

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There are other armed groups in Bosnia in the regions of Derventa, Bugojno and possibly in the Romanija mountains. Resistance forces are to be found in Lika, in the regions of Otocac and Gospic, in Herzegovina and more recently in Dalmatia where strong pro-Fito feelings have gradually given way to overt opposition. There is no detailed information on these groups.

The total strength of the Croat armed groups is estimated at 8,000 to 10,000 men.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there are Serb groups (Chetniks) in addition to those mentioned above. Their total strength is approximately 3,000 or 3,500 men. The leaders are unknown.

No collaboration exists between the Croat and Serb groups.

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